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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/681,439	04/05/2001	Jeffrey Alan Tillery	30GF-1108	4764

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EXAMINER

THOMPSON JR, FOREST

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/681,439

Applicant(s)

TILLERY ET AL.

Examiner

Forest Thompson Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Knowles et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,897).

Claims 1, 9, 10, 20: Knowles et al. teaches:

- at least one device (col. 3 line 65 – col. 4 line 24);
- a server connected to said device via a network (col. 5 lines 37-48);
- receiving data relating to a customer desired product including at least one of a feature and a function (col. 2 lines 14-24);
- receiving at least one indication of importance for at least one of the feature and the function (col. 4 lines 25-50);
- accessing at least one database containing at least one of inventory control data, component data, and image data (col. 9 line 65 – col. 10 line 56);
- generating a first quote based on the received data, the received indication, and data stored in the accessed database (col. 5 lines 6-36).

- providing the customer with the generated first quote including a product price, a delivery date, a three dimensional image, and a short-term Z transform estimate (col. 5 line 6-48); and
- prompting the customer to iterate a second quote (col. 5 line 6-48).

Claim 2, 11: Knowles et al. teaches translating the received data into a product bill of materials (BOM) (col. 5 lines 6-36).

Claim 3, 12: Knowles et al. teaches utilizing the BOM in conjunction with the accessed database to generate at least one of a product price, a product delivery date, a product Z transform estimate, and a three dimensional (3 D) image (col. 5 lines 5-36).

Claim 4, 13: Knowles et al. teaches providing at least one of the product price, the product delivery date, the product Z transform estimate, and the 3D image to the customer; and prompting the customer to iterate a second quote (col. 2 lines 25-35; col. 5 lines 6-36).

Claim 5, 14: Knowles et al. teaches:

- providing the first quote to the customer (col. 2 lines 25-35; col. 5 lines 6-36); and
- prompting the customer to iterate a second quote (col. 2 lines 25-35; col. 5 lines 6-36).

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Claim 6, 15: Knowles et al. teaches prompting the customer to enter a different indication of importance for at least one of a feature and a function (col. 2 lines 25-35; col. 5 lines 6-36).

Claim 7, 16: Knowles et al. teaches receiving an indication of importance for at least one of a product price, a product size, and a product functionality (col. 2 lines 14-24).

Claim 8, 17: Knowles et al. teaches providing the customer with the generated first quote including a product price, a delivery date, a three dimensional image, and a short-term Z transform estimate (col. 2 lines 14-24).

Claim 18: Knowles et al. teaches said server connected to said device by a network (col. 9 line 65 – col. 10 line 31).

Claim 19: Knowles et al. teaches said network comprises at least one of an intranet, a WAN, a LAN, and the Internet (col. 9 line 65 – col. 10 line 31).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Prior art includes:

- Fisher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,247,128) teaches a system of computer manufacturing with pre-installation of software which utilizes a software selection

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process controlled by a rules database to determine the proper software components to be pre-installed onto an assembled computer or hard drive.

- Robertson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,594,799) teaches a multi-faceted portal site acts as a server in the context of an n-tier client/server network, and connects electronic designers and design teams to design and verification tool and service providers on the other through a single portal site. Tools and services accessible to users through the portal site include electronic design automation (EDA) software tools, electronic component information, electronic component databases of parts (or dynamic parts), computing and processing resources, virtual circuit blocks, design expert assistance, and integrated circuit fabrication. Such tools and services may be provided in whole or part by suppliers connected to the portal site. Users accessing the portal site are presented with options in a menu or other convenient format identifying the tools and services available, and are able to more rapidly complete circuit designs by having access to a wide variety of tools and services in a single locale. The portal site may facilitate purchase, lease or other acquisition of the tools and services offered through it.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Forest Thompson Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 306-5449. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM-3:30 PM.

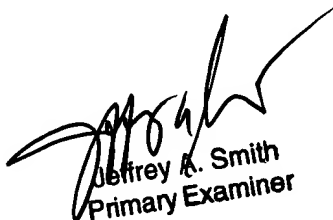
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (703) 308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FT

06/17/2004


Jeffrey A. Smith
Primary Examiner